

VOTING MODERNIZATION BOND ACT OF 2002. (SHELLEY-HERTZBERG ACT).

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF PROPOSITION 41

If you are reading this, you are a person who takes your right and responsibility to vote seriously.

California Common Cause, the California Public Interest Research Group, and the California Secretary of State join us in urging you to vote “Yes” on Proposition 41—the Voting Modernization Bond Act.

The Secretary of State’s official analysis says: “Innovations in voting technology provide significant benefits—including ease of use, accessibility, accelerated reporting of results, meeting the needs for multiple ballots and multiple language ballots, improvements in security, and reduced costs.”

In its editorial, one major newspaper outlined the issues clearly: “California now elects its leaders through a hodge-podge of vote-counting systems (including) punch cards that feature the Florida-famous chad.

“It’s time to bring this wide range of systems up to date. The punch-card system produces errors that can disqualify an entire ballot. New methods greatly speed up vote counting and guard against fraud.

“Citizens need to know that their votes count, and in a disputed race, the results can be reliably checked.

“[Proposition 41], by Assemblyman Kevin Shelley, a San Francisco Democrat, calls for a \$200 million bond...to buy new vote tabulating machinery.” Secretary of State Bill Jones, a Republican who is the state’s chief elections officer, called for this bond last November. This bipartisan support indicates it’s time to update the way California votes.

The Secretary of State has decertified punch card voting systems because they are obsolete, but counties need funding for new equipment. Here are some facts for you to consider:

1) 11.4 million of California’s 15.7 million registered voters cast ballots on punch-card systems.

2) The “hanging chad” phenomenon can occur on a system used by 6.5 million voters.

3) Two-thirds of California’s voters are using decades old systems and these aging voting machines need to be replaced as soon as possible.

In the last five months our nation has fought against terrorism. President Bush named the effort “Enduring Freedom.”

There is no freedom greater than the right to choose our own government. Protecting that freedom requires investing in the infrastructure of public safety and national security.

It is no less important to invest in the very infrastructure of democracy. We urge you to vote “Yes” on the Shelley-Hertzberg Voting Modernization Bond Act.

KEVIN SHELLEY

Assembly Majority Leader

BARBARA INATSUGU, *President*

League of Women Voters of California

BILL JONES

Secretary of State

REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF PROPOSITION 41

NEW VOTING MACHINES SHOULD BE PURCHASED WITH THE BILLIONS OF DOLLARS CALIFORNIANS PAY IN INCOME TAX, SALES TAX, AND OTHER TAXES...NOT WITH NEW BONDS.

Last year, politicians collected \$8 billion more from Californians than they expected...and they spent it all, including high ongoing costs for the Governor’s secretly negotiated energy contracts.

Not only is bonding expensive, but by the time we pay off the bonds’ principal and interest, these voting machines will be outdated. Bonds are typically approved for schools, roads, and parks, NOT equipment like voting machines.

The Governor and the Legislature must PRIORITIZE their spending. We need strong schools, police, fire, and National Guard protection, and sufficient money for emergencies like earthquakes and other disasters. Politicians cannot continue to act like kids in a toy store

who insist they go home with the latest toy simply because they want it.

If the Governor and Legislature cut the pork from their spending, they could buy the latest voting machines with the tax money in the General Fund. Californians cannot pay more simply because elected officials refuse to make tough spending decisions.

As our nation and our state face the fiscal uncertainties caused by the terrorists and struggling economy, it is irresponsible to saddle taxpayers with more debt.

VOTE “NO” ON PROP 41’S BONDS. The Governor and Legislature can and should buy voting machines with the money they already have.

HONORABLE DENNIS MOUNTJOY

Member of the Assembly, 59th District

JON COUPAL, *President*

Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association

LEWIS K. UHLER, *President*

National Tax Limitation Committee

ARGUMENT AGAINST PROPOSITION 41

Californians owe billions and billions of dollars for already approved bonds. In fact, the current bond debt for a family of four is \$2987. If you add interest payments, each family's debt obligation soars.

At the beginning of last year, Californians sent government tax collectors \$8 billion more than they anticipated.

What happened to all that money? The politicians spent it. Sacramento politicians hate to say "no" to any requests made by special interest groups asking for tax dollars for one program or another.

Last year's \$8 billion of overcollected taxes should have been returned to taxpayers. Instead, politicians spent every last dime! Now the same politicians want to reach into your pockets for more money, asking you to approve another bond.

Last year, every dollar you earned from January 1 until April 30 went to government for one tax or another. You pay sales tax, income tax, and property tax. You pay taxes on your telephone, water, gas and electricity. You pay taxes on gasoline at the pumps, fees for driver's licenses, smog checks, and vehicle registration. You pay fees for dog licenses, fishing licenses—it goes on and on. IF ELECTED OFFICIALS

SIMPLY SPENT OUR MONEY WISELY, THE TAXES AND GOVERNMENT FEES WE ALREADY PAY WOULD BE MORE THAN ENOUGH!

We can all agree that California would benefit by Proposition 41's updated voter election systems. It is always nice to have the latest technology. But politicians should buy these new voting machines with the tax dollars we already send them. CALIFORNIA FAMILIES SHOULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO PAY MORE BECAUSE SACRAMENTO POLITICIANS CARELESSLY SPENT LAST YEAR'S \$8 BILLION TAX SURPLUS.

It is foolish to sink further in debt simply because political leaders were unwilling to make tough decisions. Bonds are debts. Bonds accumulate interest. In the end, we are the ones who will ultimately pay the bill for new bonds!

VOTE "NO" ON PROPOSITION 41.

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REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT AGAINST PROPOSITION 41

This is no time for political scare tactics.

The right to vote and the right to have your vote count are fundamental values of our democracy. Proposition 41 goes a long way toward guaranteeing those rights.

Proposition 41 is a bipartisan plan to ensure that the voting problems that occurred in Florida do not happen in California. Republican Secretary of State Bill Jones, California's chief elections officer, proposed this bond to reform California's voting system. Democratic Assembly Majority Leader Kevin Shelley and Democratic Assembly Speaker Robert Hertzberg authored Proposition 41 to create a matching fund to modernize California's antiquated voting machines.

The League of Women Voters of California supports Proposition 41 because it will increase voters' confidence in our elections system, boost participation and avoid costly lawsuits arising from election irregularities.

Newspapers across California, including the *Los Angeles Times* and the *San Francisco Chronicle*, have endorsed Proposition 41 because it helps California's

county governments reform their voting systems with a \$200 million state matching fund.

Proposition 41 will help counties modernize elections equipment. This will improve voting security, create multiple language ballots and ultimately reduce the cost of running elections.

Independent, non-partisan groups such as *California Common Cause* and the *Congress of California Seniors* have endorsed Proposition 41. The people responsible for conducting fair elections, California's independent county elections officers, support Proposition 41.

Proposition 41 is common sense election reform to ensure that every vote counts. We urge you to vote "Yes" on Proposition 41.

KEVIN SHELLEY

Assembly Majority Leader

BILL JONES

Secretary of State

ROBERT HERTZBERG

Assembly Speaker